

ASSEMBLY LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3797

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 13, 2013

The Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 3797.

As amended and reported by the committee, Assembly Bill No. 3797 codifies current law enforcement protocols concerning certain seized and recovered firearms. The amended bill also requires reporting of firearms trace data.

Under the provisions of the bill, all New Jersey law enforcement agencies are required to report information relating to abandoned or discarded firearms they have recovered, or to firearms they have seized or recovered because those firearms were unlawfully possessed, used for an unlawful purpose, recovered from the scene of a crime, or are reasonably believed to have been used or associated with the commission of a crime to the National Crime Information Center 2000 System to determine whether that firearm has been reported stolen and to the New Jersey Trace System which, as part of the Criminal Justice Information System, makes information relating to the identity of a firearm's first purchaser, where and when it was purchased, and makes that information readily available to all law enforcement agencies.

The bill also requires all New Jersey law enforcement agencies to test-fire certain seized and recovered firearms and submit the resulting ballistics information to the National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network. The ballistics information in the network is used to determine whether the firearm is associated with or related to a crime, criminal event, or any individual associated or related to a crime or criminal event.

Similarly the bill requires all law enforcement to report the ballistics information concerning any spent shell casing recovered at a crime scene to the National Integrated Ballistics Identification Network

The information submitted to the National Ballistics Identification Network is a readily available tool used by law enforcement not only to solve crimes, but also to prevent and deter future criminal activity.

The amended bill also requires the Superintendent of State Police to issue to the public an initial report summarizing firearms trace data received within the last 10 years from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,

Firearms, and Explosives. Thereafter, quarterly reports are to be issued summarizing data currently received. The reports are to include particular and aggregate information on: (1) the state of origin of the recovered firearm; (2) the identity and city location of the firearm's source vendor; (3) the type of firearm recovered; (4) the manufacturer, make, and model of the recovered firearm; (5) the crime which was committed with the recovered firearm; and (6) other appropriate information.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to require the Superintendent of State Police to issue to the public an initial report and thereafter quarterly reports summarizing firearms trace data received from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.